

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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1. (canceled):

2. (currently amended): An image processing method of carrying out image processing on a digital image signal, the image processing method comprising:

extracting a characteristic value representing a characteristic of an image sensing device from digital image signals of a plurality of images of subjects photographed by the image sensing device; and

carrying out image processing according to the characteristic value on the digital image signals;

wherein the characteristic value, when each of the digital image signals is composed of RGB color signals, is a total average of averages of the digital image signals and

the image processing converts RGB color signals in a digital image signal representing an image of a gray subject to be equalized, based on the total average[.];

wherein the image processing is carried out by weighting the averages by using a predetermined weight coefficient.

3. (original): An image processing method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the total average is an average of weight-averages based on weight coefficients, each of which is determined by a color of each pixel in each digital image signal.

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4. (canceled):

5. (canceled):

6. (canceled):

7. (canceled):

8. (canceled):

9. (canceled):

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10. (previously presented): An image processing method of carrying out image processing on a digital image signal, the image processing method comprising:

extracting a characteristic value representing a characteristic of an image sensing device from digital image signals of a plurality of images of subjects photographed by the image sensing device; and

carrying out image processing according to the characteristic value on the digital image signals;

wherein the characteristic value, when each of the digital image signals is composed of RGB color signals, is a value regarding chroma or color saturation of each of the digital image signals and

the image processing converts the chroma of the digital image signal, based on the characteristic value.

11. (canceled):


12. (canceled):

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13. (currently amended): An image processing method as claimed in Claim ~~14~~ 10, wherein the characteristic value is found based on the digital image signal from which high saturation pixels have been eliminated.

14. (canceled):

15. (previously presented): An image processing method of carrying out image processing on a digital image signal, the image processing method comprising:

 extracting a characteristic value representing a characteristic of an image sensing device from digital image signals of a plurality of images of subjects photographed by the image sensing device; and

carrying out image processing according to the characteristic value on the digital image signals;

wherein the characteristic value is extracted from a thumbnail image signal of the digital image signals.

16. (canceled):

17. (previously presented): An image processing method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the image sensing device converts information of a photographed subject into a digital image signal and comprises recording means for recording the digital image signal in a recording medium.

18. (original): An image processing method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein a flag indicating whether or not the digital image signal has been corrected after photographing is recorded in the recording medium together with the digital image signal, and

the extraction of the characteristic value and the image processing are carried out only on a digital image signal having the flag among the digital image signals.

19. (original): An image processing apparatus for carrying out image processing on a digital image signal, the image processing apparatus comprising:

characteristic value extracting means for extracting a characteristic value representing a characteristic of an image sensing device from digital image signals of a plurality of images of subjects photographed by the image sensing device; and

image processing means for carrying out image processing according to the characteristic value on the digital image signals.

20. (previously presented): An image processing method of carrying out image processing on a digital image signal comprising:

extracting a characteristic value representing a characteristic of an image sensing device from digital image signals of a plurality of images of subjects photographed by the image sensing device; and

carrying out image processing on the digital image signals, according to the characteristic value,

wherein the characteristic value relates to at least one of brightness, tone and sharpness of the image sensing device and is determined using digital image data derived from more than two different images photographed by the image sensing device.

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